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04DEC02 E768241-1 D02246
P01/7700 0.00-0228195.4

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The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

1. Your reference

P008500GBZ ATM

2. Patent application number

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0228195.4

03 DEC 2002

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

① Medical Research Council
20 Park Crescent
London W1B 1AL
United Kingdom

"SEE CONTINUATION SHEET"

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

United Kingdom

① 08520009001

② 08339632001

③ 08481145002

4. Title of the invention

sCD Molecule

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

D Young & Co

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

21 New Fetter Lane
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EC4A 1DA

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

59006

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Country

Priority application number
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Date of filing
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Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

Yes

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
 - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
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Description 34

Claim(s) 3

Abstract 1

Drawing(s) 17-15+18

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Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents Appendix 1
(please specify)

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

D Young & Co
D Young & Co (Agents for the Applicants)

Date 03 December 2002

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Antonio Maschio

023 8071 9500

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CONTINUATION SHEET OUR REF: P008500GBZ ATM

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sCD MOLECULE

The present invention relates to the use of cluster of differentiation (CD) molecules in detecting the presence and/or assessing the progression of one or more disease states in an individual. In particular it relates to the use of profiles/fingerprint/s of secretory CD (sCD) molecules in detecting and/or assessing the progression of one or more disease states in an individual. Further uses of sCD profiles according to the present invention are also described.

Background to the invention

Rapid and accurate diagnosis is essential in medicine as in many cases early diagnosis and successful treatment correlates with a better outcome and reduced hospitalisation. Currently, the clinical diagnosis and staging of many diseases of global significance involve different invasive procedures such as histopathological analysis of biopsy samples which are usually obtained when the disease process is at a relatively advanced stage. In many cases, a classic histopathological approach may not be sufficient to produce accurate diagnosis and any delay in confirming the diagnosis would have financial and morbidity repercussions for the healthcare institution and most importantly for the individual. Disease states and disease staging are also determined by different imaging techniques such as X-rays, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), CT analysis and others, however, these are expensive and impractical when dealing with large numbers of samples.

A variety of diseases have a genetic basis and can be characterised by changes in the overall patterns and/or expression levels of various proteins. For example, some cancers are associated with changes in the expression of oncogenes or tumour suppressor genes. Furthermore, disease conditions or disorders associated with dysregulated cell cycle and development can be attributed to changes in transcriptional regulation of specific genes.

Although there are several genetic assays available to assess gene mutations, the identification of specific genetic changes may not always be a direct indicator of a disease or disorder and thus can not be relied upon as an accurate prognostic indicator.

- 5 Certain genetic changes are exhibited by alterations in cell surface antigens. Again, however, prior attempts to develop a diagnostic assay for complex disease conditions or disorders based on the identification of single antigen have not been uniformly successful.
- 10 In addition, or alternatively, biochemical analysis of a patient may be used to diagnose disease state. For example, the presence of Bence Jones protein in urine is an indicator that an individual has multiple myeloma. However, classical biochemical methods are limited for example an elevated cholesterol in serum indicates hypercholesterolaemia but does not definitively indicate atherosclerosis. A further disadvantage of
- 15 biochemical methods of diagnosis is that they generally permit the measurement of only one or two indicator/s of disease in any one test. Consequently, they provide an incomplete picture of the disease state of an individual. Moreover, if several tests are performed in an attempt to provide a more complete picture, this inevitably increases the number of variables which complicates interpretation. Furthermore, for many
- 20 diseases there are no reliable biochemical markers, especially for diseases of global importance such as breast cancer, colorectal cancer and lung cancer. In the case of colorectal cancer, a number of carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) markers have been identified, however they have poor sensitivity and very low specificity. The situation is similar with disease conditions requiring surgical intervention. There is still, for
- 25 example, no marker for acute appendicitis and consequently, a great many patients undergo unnecessary invasive surgery. It has been estimated that more than 40,000 unnecessary appendicitis operations occur each year due to misdiagnosis with associated costs of \$700 million. In a recent larger retrospective study, Flume and colleagues show that misdiagnosis occurs in 15% of instances.

Therefore, there is a pressing need in the art to provide a simple and complete picture of the disease state or condition of an individual. Such a 'picture' would be of use in predicting and/or detecting the presence of a disease or condition, in assessing the therapeutic strategies and the potential of various agents and in monitoring the progression and successful treatment of disease states or condition.

Lymphocytes and other leukocytes express a large number of different antigens associated with their outer plasma membranes that can be used to identify distinct functional cell subsets. Many of these antigens were "classically" known to be receptors for growth factors, cell-cell interactions and immunoglobulins; molecules for cell adhesion or complement stimulation; enzymes and ion channels. A single systematic nomenclature has been adopted to classify monoclonal antibodies to human leukocyte cell surface antigens termed cluster of differentiation (CD) antigens, also referred to as CD molecules (Kishimoto *et al.*, 1996 Proceedings of the Sixth International Workshop and Conference held in Kobe, Japan. 10-14 Garland Publishing Inc, NY, USA).

The data required in order to define a CD has changed over the years, not surprisingly in view of the advances in modern technology. Initially, clustering depended absolutely on the statistical revelation of similarities in reaction pattern of two or more antibodies, analysed on multiple tissues. It is now accepted that CD molecules are to be classified by molecular characteristics. Thus it has become customary to use the CD marker (for example CD21) to indicate the molecule recognised by each group of monoclonal antibodies. The current list of CD markers is constantly updated as new antigens are identified and eventually, the CD list will encompass all human lymphocyte cell surface antigens and their homologues in other mammalian and non-mammalian species (Mason *et al.*, 2001, *Immunology*, **103**, 401-406).

Historically, CD cell surface antigens have been used as markers in diagnosis. Indeed leukemias are diagnosed on the basis of cell morphology, expression of specific CD antigens, lymphoid (LY) and myeloid (MY) antigens, enzyme activities and cytogenetic abnormalities such as chromosome translocations. The expression of up to

three CD antigens on leukemia cells is determined using labelled antibodies to particular CD antigens with analysis by flow cytometry.

5 Significantly, however, it has been observed that often (if not always in normal or disease states) the surface bound CD immunological specificity molecules (intact CD molecules or fragments thereof) are found soluble in the serum and in other body fluids. Subsequent research has shown that indeed CD molecules can be secreted from cells as a result of "active" processes such as alternative splicing (Wolfson and Milstein, PNAS, 91 (14) 6683-6687) or "passive" processes such as cell surface
10 shedding. Thus, CD molecules can be found in two forms, membrane associated CD molecules and secretory CD molecules (sCD) which can be complete molecules or fragments thereof.

It is generally accepted however that the change in levels of any one sCD is not
15 indicative of any given disease state and cannot therefore be used in diagnosis of disease states.

Recent studies (those of WO 00/39580) have described a system for the diagnosis of leukemia, whereby immunoglobulins are immobilised on a solid support and are used
20 to detect cell-surface antigen levels, in particular cell-surface CD antigen levels in samples of cells. Using this approach, a pattern of expression of cell-surface bound CD antigens is generated which the inventors have shown to be indicative of the presence of various defined leukemias in a patient. However, there are several disadvantages with this technique. Firstly and importantly, it is a cell-based technique. Such
25 techniques have many disadvantages associated with them, for example that of background noise and the difficulty of measuring antigen levels accurately. In addition, generally, it is only practical to test one cell type at a time (due to the problems of background noise and providing a suitable non-diseased control).

30 Therefore, there still exists a need in the art for a simple method for diagnosis of different diseases and conditions by the measurement of CD antigens wherein such method produces a complete and accurate picture of disease.

Summary of the invention

The present inventors have surprisingly found that particular disease states can be characterised by specific patterns of levels of secretory CD molecules derived from the body fluids of an individual. That is, the profile of the levels of sCD antigens correlate with particular diseases or disorders. This finding is especially surprising since the levels of sCDs found in the body fluids of an individual are generally very low, and as the sCD released by cells would only be expected to change in some, and not all cell types of an individual when affected by one or more diseases, then the change of levels of secreted CD levels detectable in the body fluids of diseased individuals as compared with non-diseased individuals would be expected to be minimal.

Thus, in a first aspect, the present invention provides a secretory CD (sCD) fingerprint of one or more disease states.

In the context of the present invention, the term 'CD' refers to a different cell surface leukocyte molecule recognised by a given monoclonal or group of monoclonal antibodies which specifically 'cluster' to the antigen/molecule in question. Many, if not all of these molecules produce secretory forms by alternative splicing, shedding or other mechanisms. Thus in the context of the present invention, the term 'secretory CD molecule (sCD)' refers to a secreted form of a cell surface leukocyte molecule recognised by a given monoclonal or group of monoclonal antibodies as herein described.

25

As herein defined, the term 'secretory CD fingerprint (sCD)' describes the pattern or profile of levels of more than one secretory CDs in one or more individuals. A sCD fingerprint as herein defined may be representative of one or more non-diseased individual/s or a one or more diseased individual/s. Preferably, a secretory CD fingerprint describes the level of five or more secretory CD molecules, more preferably it is 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more sCD molecules, more preferably still a secretory

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CD fingerprint describes the levels of 15 or more sCD molecules. Most preferably a secretory CD fingerprint describes the levels of 20 or more sCD molecules.

5 sCD levels from normal and/or diseased individuals may be collated in order to generate one or more reference sCD fingerprints. A 'reference' sCD fingerprint is a fingerprint which is advantageously generated from sCD measurements from more than one individual and is representative of the sCD levels of either a 'normal' or diseased individual. Advantageously, these reference fingerprints are collected together to form a database so that abnormal fingerprints generated from patient
10 samples can be distinguished from normal reference fingerprints in the database. In addition, by comparing one or more patient sample fingerprints with one or more reference fingerprint/s corresponding to one or more diseases, then the disease state of an individual may be established.

15 A secretory CD (sCD) fingerprint may be generated from one individual. Preferably however, each fingerprint is generated from more than one individual. Advantageously, it is generated from more than five, ten, fifteen or twenty individuals. One skilled in the art will appreciate that the greater the number of individuals used to generate the reference fingerprint, then the more representative of any given disease
20 state or of a normal individual the reference sCD profile/s will be. Fingerprints may be simplified by using the average values of the data obtained for each sCD for a number of individuals. For example, the modal value is used for data obtained from a very small number of samples.

25 One skilled will appreciate that often more than one disease state may be present in an individual at a given time. This may complicate the CD fingerprint obtained, such that the fingerprint is an aggregate fingerprint of several disease states. The effect of multiple disease states (composites) in an individual may be minimised if the reference fingerprint for any given disease state is generated from several or many individuals.
30 Importantly, composites may generate their own patterns and be used as reference in their own right.

Measuring the levels of sCD molecules is carried out using methods known to one skilled in the art and described herein.

sCD levels are measured in samples of body fluids. Suitable body fluids for measuring
5 sCDs include any one or more selected from the group consisting of the following:
tissue fluid, serum, blood, cerebrospinal fluid, urine, lymphatic fluid, aspirate, bone
marrow aspirate and mucus. One skilled in the art will appreciate that this list is not
intended to be exhaustive.

10 In a further aspect the present invention provides a method of generating a secretory
CD (sCD) fingerprint of one or more disease state/s comprising the step of measuring
the levels of more than one secretory CD in one or more samples from one or more
individuals and collating the data.

15 According to the above aspect of the invention, the samples for testing and used to
generate a given sCD profile may be from one body fluid type or more than one body
fluid type. Advantageously the one or more samples for testing and used to generate a
sCD profile are taken from more than one body fluid for any given disease state.

20 As used herein, the term 'collating' the data means to put the data into a form so that
one or more pattern/s of the levels of sCDs within that disease state is apparent.

As the present inventors surprisingly found that a sCD fingerprint of a diseased
individual is different from that of a non-diseased individual, it was realised that by
25 comparing the sCD fingerprint/profile of a sample from a diseased patient with that of
one or more reference sCD fingerprints representing one or more defined disease states
then the presence and nature of a disease in that individual could be ascertained.

Thus, in a further aspect, the present invention provides a method for predicting the
30 presence of one or more disease states in an individual comprising the step of
comparing one or more sCD fingerprint/s generated from that individual with one or
more reference sCD fingerprint/s.

In the context of the present invention, the term 'predicting the presence of one or more disease states' refers to the process of detecting the presence of one or more disease states before the onset of the clinical signs of the disease are apparent in the individual. The clinical signs of disease are characteristic of each disease state or group of disease states, as long as the disease is present in that individual.

As referred to herein, the comparing step may refer to comparing an individual's sCD fingerprint/profile with one or more reference sCD fingerprint/s of one or more disease state/s and/or with a reference sCD fingerprint of a non-diseased 'normal' individual.

In a further aspect still, the present invention provides a method for detecting the presence of one or more disease states in an individual comprising the step of comparing one or more sCD fingerprint/s generated from that individual with one or more reference sCD fingerprint/s.

The term 'detecting the presence of one or more disease states' refers to the detection of the presence of one or more disease states in an individual once the clinical signs of one or more disease states are apparent in that individual. In addition, the term refers to the process of detecting the presence of one or more disease states in an individual other than the disease state whose clinical signs are apparent in that individual.

According to the above two aspects of the invention, the reference sCD fingerprint/s may be from non-diseased (normal) individuals and/or from diseased individuals. Preferably, they are from diseased individuals.

In a further aspect still, the present invention provides a method for detecting the extent of one or more disease states in an individual comprising the step of comparing one or more sCD fingerprint/s generated from that individual with one or more reference sCD fingerprint/s.

As referred to above, the term 'detecting the extent of one or more disease states' includes within its scope detecting the severity of one or more disease states within an individual. For example it may allow low grade and high grade forms of the disease to be distinguished. It allows localised and metastasised forms of a particular disease to be distinguished. In such cases one or more sCD fingerprints of an individual are compared with one or more reference disease sCD fingerprints representative of disease states at one or more degrees of severity. For example, in the case of neoplastic disease the presence of absence of metastasis may be detected using the method of the present invention.

In a further aspect, the present invention provides a method for assessing the progression of a disease state in an individual comprising the step of comparing the sCD fingerprint of an individual at two or more periods during the occurrence of the disease.

In the context of the present invention, the term 'assessing the progression of a disease state' means assessing whether the disease has increased in severity, decreased in severity or remains the same severity compared with a different period during the life-span of the disease.

The term 'period' in the context of the present invention, generally refers to a time period.

As defined herein, the term a 'disease state' refers to any impairment of the normal physiological functions affecting an organism or any disease condition, disorder or the presence of a particular microbial, viral, parasitic or other pathogenic agent known to one skilled in the art. Suitable disease states for analysis as described herein include but are not limited to: infectious, neoplastic, autoimmune, metabolic, degenerative, psychological, psychiatric, iatrogenic, inflammatory, drug or toxin related, vascular, traumatic and endocrine diseases. Advantageously, 'a disease state' as herein defined refers to any one or more disease selected from the group which includes but is not limited to: infections such as bacterial, fungal, protozoan and viral infections, non-

neoplastic disorders; stroke; heart condition; atherosclerosis; pain; diabetes, obesity; anorexia; bulimia; asthma; Parkinson's disease; thrombosis; acute heart failure; hypotension; hypertension; urinary retention; metabolic bone diseases such as osteoporosis and osteopetrosis; angina pectoris; hepatitis; myocardial infarction; 5 ulcers; asthma; allergies; rheumatoid arthritis; inflammatory bowel disease; irritable bowel syndrome benign prostatic hypertrophy; pancreatitis; chronic renal failure and psychotic and neurological disorders, including anxiety, schizophrenia, manic depression, delirium, dementia, severe mental retardation and dyskinesias, such as Huntington's disease or Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome and others. Most preferably it 10 refers to appendicitis; Bence Jones Proteinuria; Chronic Myeloid Leukemia; Colorectal cancer; chronic renal failure; Crohn's Disease; Diabetic Nephropathy; Cardiac pathology; Infection; Liver damage; Lymphoma; macrocytic anaemia; Prostate Cancer; Oligoclonal Banding and Pulmonary Embolism/Deep Vein Thrombosis (eg DVT/PE). One skilled in the art will appreciate that this list is not 15 intended to be exhaustive.

Examples of secretory cluster of differentiation molecules suitable for measurement to generate a sCD fingerprint for use in the methods of the present invention include but are not limited to CD14, CD25, CD31, CD44, CD50, CD54, CD62E, CD62L, CD86, 20 CD95, CD106, CD116, CD124, CD138, CD141, CD40L, CD8, CD23, CD30, CD40. Those skilled in the art will be aware of other suitable sCD molecules for analyses according to the methods of the present invention.

Measuring CD levels may be carried out using methods known to those skilled in the 25 art and described herein. Secretory CD (sCD) levels may suitably be measured in samples of tissue fluids which include, but are not limited to: serum, plasma, lymph fluid, pleural fluid, synovial fluid, follicular fluid, seminal fluid, amniotic fluid, milk, whole blood, urine, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), ascites, saliva, sputum, tears, perspiration, and mucus. Advantageously, sCD levels are measured from samples of 30 serum using reagents suitable for detecting secretory CDs that include but are not limited to antibodies raised against those CDs. Preferably monoclonal antibodies or engineered antibodies, including phage antibodies raised against secretory CDs or their

membrane bound forms are used for their detection. Commercially available kits for measuring CD levels include those from Diaclone 1, Bd A Fleming BP 1985 F-25020 Besancon Cedex-France and Medsystems Diagnostics GmbH, Rennweg 95b, A-1030 Vienna Austria.

5

Suitable techniques for measuring levels of sCDs include but are not limited to immunoassay including ELISA using commercially available kits such as those described above, flow cytometry particularly multiplexed particle flow cytometry as herein described. Those skilled in the art will be aware of other suitable techniques for measuring CD levels in samples from an individual including antibody 'chip' array type technologies.

10

Secretory CD levels are also measured in a number of individuals with one or more disease states as herein defined, such as appendicitis and the like. Generally one or more secretory CDs levels will be elevated in a given disease state as compared with the range found in normal individuals. However, some sCD levels decrease in some disease states compared with the range found in 'normal' individuals and such decreases may also form part of a sCD fingerprint of the present invention. Thus, by measuring the ranges of levels of various secretory CDs found in a number of individuals with one or more defined disease state/s a 'fingerprint' of secretory CD levels for any defined one or more diseases is generated.

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Preferably, the sCD fingerprint of an individual is generated from any two or more sCDs selected from the group consisting of the following: CD14, CD25, CD31, CD44, CD50, CD54, CD62E, CD62L, CD86, CD95, CD106, CD116, CD124, CD138, CD141, CD40L, CD8, CD23, CD30, CD40. One skilled in the art will appreciate that this list is not intended to be exhaustive and may include CD homologues of human and other mammalian or non-mammalian species. One skilled in the art will appreciate though that in general animal reference sCD fingerprints cannot be used to analyse human diseases and *vice-versa*.

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The invention can also be used for testing human and other mammalian and non-mammalian species using sCD fingerprints from the appropriate animal.

5 One skilled in the art will appreciate that the methods of the present aspect of the invention can be used to test potential therapeutic agents suitable for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of diseases. An agent of therapeutic potential will affect the sCD profile or 'fingerprint' of the disease: If several fingerprints are taken at various stages of a disease and compared with those obtained from samples in which an individual has been treated with a potential therapeutic agent, then the effect on one or more sCD
10 fingerprints can readily be assessed.

In addition, the method of the present invention may also be used to monitor patient compliance with taking a particular drug (agent), and/or undergoing a particular treatment regime.

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Thus, in a further aspect still, the present invention provides a method for assessing the effect of one or more agent/s on one or more disease states in an individual comprising the step of comparing a sCD fingerprint of an individual at two or more different time periods.

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According to the above aspect of the invention, preferably the agent is a potentially therapeutic agent.

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In the context of the present invention the term to 'assess the effect' means to detect any changes in the severity or other characteristics of any one or more diseases in an individual. Such changes will be reflected in a change in sCD profile/fingerprint of an individual.

30

Preferably the agent is a potentially therapeutic agent. The term 'potentially therapeutic agent' means any agent that may cause a beneficial effect on an individual suffering from one or more diseases. Such beneficial effects may be for example reducing the clinical signs of the one or more diseases. It is an important feature of the

present invention though, that a change in level of any one sCD in isolation is not indicative of a change in severity of a disease.

Generally, individual sCD levels will be elevated in a disease state as compared with a
5 'normal' non-diseased individual. Occasionally however, the level of an individual sCD will decrease in a disease state as compared with a normal non-diseased individual. However, according to the present invention, it is the changes of the profile of a number of sCDs (that is a fingerprint) during a disease which provides an accurate measure of the effect of one or more agents on a disease state in an individual.

10 One skilled in the art will appreciate that on occasion a selection of the complete repertoire of sCDs available for testing may be measured. The selection chosen will vary according to the disease state being tested.

According to this aspect of the invention, sCDs suitable for generating a sCD
15 fingerprint are as described herein.

Therapeutic agents may be tested for their effect on any one or more disease states selected from the group consisting of the following: infections, autoimmune disease, neoplastic, vascular endocrinological, metabolic, inflammatory degenerative,
20 psychiatric psychological, traumatic, drug/toxin-related, bacterial, fungal, protozoan and viral infections, non-neoplastic disorders; pain; diabetes, obesity; anorexia; bulimia; asthma; pregnancy; endocrine; vascular; metabolic; gastro-intestinal; iatrogenic; psychiatric; psychocological; exercise-induced; diet-related; ME; degenerative; Parkinson's disease; thrombosis; atherosclerosis; acute heart failure;
25 hypotension; hypertension; erectile dysfunction; urinary retention; metabolic bone diseases such as osteoporosis; angina pectoris; hepatitis; myocardial infarction; ulcers; allergies; rheumatoid arthritis; inflammatory bowel disease; irritable bowel syndrome benign prostatic hypertrophy; psychosis; psychiatric disorders; including anxiety; schizophrenia; manic depression; delirium; dementia; severe mental retardation and
30 dyskinesias, such as Huntington's disease or Gilles de la Tourett's syndrome; and preferably tumours which can be benign or malignant cancers; breast cancer; myeloma; melanoma; bladder cancer; leukaemia; plasmocytoma and others, but most

preferably appendicitis; Bence Jones Proteinuria; Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia; Colorectal cancer; chronic renal failure; Crohn's Disease; Diabetic Nephropathy; Cardiac pathology; Infection; Liver damage; Lymphoma; macrocytic anaemia; Prostate Cancer; Oligoclonal Banding and PE/DVT

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Suitable agents for assessment according to the method of the present invention may be naturally occurring or synthetic. Naturally occurring agents include proteins, peptides or nucleic acids. They may be agents known to be of therapeutic value or they may be of unknown therapeutic value.

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In a further aspect, the present invention provides a method for sub-categorising a sCD fingerprint profile comprising the steps of identifying within one or more disease states one or more sub-group/s of sCDs wherein each sub-group of sCDs exhibits common characteristics distinguishing it from any other sub-group within that disease category.

15

As used herein the term a 'sCD sub-category' describes a sub-group of sCDs which show a defined fingerprint/profile (sub-fingerprint) of sCD levels within a larger fingerprint of one or more disease states wherein each sub-group of sCDs exhibits common characteristics distinguishing it from any other sub-group within those one or more disease states.

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In a final aspect the present invention provides a sCD reference database comprising pathological and/or normal sCD fingerprint patterns.

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As herein described the term 'a database' refers to a collection of sCD fingerprints from normal 'non-diseased' and/or diseased individuals. Advantageously, the database is computer generated and/or stored.

Definitions

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As herein described the term 'CD' refers to a different cell surface leukocyte molecule recognised by a given monoclonal or group of monoclonal antibodies which specifically 'cluster' to the antigen/molecule in question.

In the context of the present invention, the term '**secretory CD molecule (sCD)**' refers to a secreted form of a cell surface leukocyte molecule recognised by a given monoclonal or group of monoclonal antibodies as herein described.

5

As used herein the term a '**sCD sub-category**' describes a sub-group of sCDs which show a defined fingerprint/profile (**sub-fingerprint**) of sCD levels within a larger fingerprint of one or more disease states wherein each sub-group of sCDs exhibits common characteristics distinguishing it from any other sub-group within those one or more disease states.

10

As herein defined, the term '**secretory CD fingerprint (sCD)**' describes the pattern or profile of levels of more than one secretory CD measured in one or more body fluids from one or more individuals. A sCD fingerprint as herein defined may be representative of one or more non-diseased individual or a one or more diseased individual/s. Preferably, a secretory CD fingerprint describes the level of five or more secretory CD molecules, more preferably it is 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more sCD molecules, more preferably still a secretory CD fingerprint describes the levels of 15 or more sCD molecules. Most preferably a secretory CD fingerprint describes the levels of 20 or more sCD molecules.

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As defined herein, the term a '**disease state**' refers to any impairment of the normal physiological functions affecting an organism or any disease condition, disorder or the presence of a particular microbial, viral, parasitic or other pathogenic agent known to one skilled in the art. Suitable disease states for analysis as described herein include but are not limited to: infectious, neoplastic, autoimmune, metabolic, degenerative, psychological, psychiatric, iatrogenic, inflammatory, drug or toxin related, vascular, traumatic and endocrine diseases. Advantageously, 'a disease state' as herein defined refers to any one or more disease selected from the group which includes but is not limited to: infections such as bacterial, fungal, protozoan and viral infections, non-neoplastic disorders; stroke; heart condition; atherosclerosis; pain; diabetes, obesity; anorexia; bulimia; asthma; Parkinson's disease; thrombosis; acute heart failure;

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hypotension; hypertension; urinary retention; metabolic bone diseases such as osteoporosis and osteopetrosis; angina pectoris; hepatitis; myocardial infarction; ulcers; asthma; allergies; rheumatoid arthritis; inflammatory bowel disease; irritable bowel syndrome benign prostatic hypertrophy; pancreatitis; chronic renal failure and
 5 psychotic and neurological disorders, including anxiety, schizophrenia, manic depression, delirium, dementia, severe mental retardation and dyskinesias, such as Huntington's disease or Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome and others. Most preferably it refers to appendicitis; Bence Jones Proteinuria; Chronic Myeloid Leukemia; Colorectal cancer; chronic renal failure; Crohn's Disease; Diabetic Nephropathy;
 10 Cardiac pathology; Infection; Liver damage; Lymphoma; macrocytic anaemia; Prostate Cancer; Oligoclonal Banding and Pulmonary Embolism/Deep Vein Thrombosis (eg DVT/PE). One skilled in the art will appreciate that this list is not intended to be exhaustive.

15 Examples of secretory cluster of differentiation molecules suitable for measurement to generate a sCD fingerprint for use in the methods of the present invention include but are not limited to CD14, CD25, CD31, CD44, CD50, CD54, CD62E, CD62L, CD86, CD95, CD106, CD116, CD124, CD138, CD141, CD40L, CD8, CD23, CD30, CD40. Those skilled in the art will be aware of other suitable sCD molecules for analyses
 20 according to the methods of the present invention.

As defined herein the term 'an antibody' includes within its scope for example IgG, IgM, IgA, IgD or IgE) or fragment (such as a FAb, F(Ab')₂, Fv, disulphide linked Fv, scFv, diabody) whether derived from any species naturally producing an antibody, or
 25 created by recombinant DNA technology; whether isolated from serum, B-cells, hybridomas, transfectomas, yeast or bacteria).

Brief description of the figures

30 **Figure 1. Disease Groups. Multiples of upper limit of normal (ULN). All sCD's included**

The limits indicated by each point are:

- No shading $\leq 1 \times \text{ULN}$
- Lightly shaded $1-2 \times \text{ULN}$
- Darkly shaded $> 2 \times \text{ULN}$
- A white slash in the box indicates no data available.

5

Figure 2. All sCD's that appear not to discriminate from the normals (sCD's 21; 102; 117, 126; 130; 26; 44v5; 44v6; 62P).

Figure 3. Disease Groups. Mode of Response for Remaining 20 sCD's.
To simplify the data further the modal response for each disease group was plotted.

10

Figure 4. Disease Groups. Mode of Response for remaining sCD's.
Data has been ranked in order of increased expression.

Figure 5. Disease Groups. Mode of Response for remaining sCD's.

15 **Figure 6.** Disease Groups. Mode of Response for all sCD's.
As for Figure 3 (except all sCD's are included).
The limits indicated by each point are:

- No shading $\leq 1 \times \text{ULN}$
- Lightly shaded $1-2 \times \text{ULN}$
- Darkly shaded $> 2 \times \text{ULN}$

20

A white slash in the box indicates no data available.

Figure 7. Disease Groups. Mode of Response for all sCD's.

Figure 8. Disease Groups. Mode of Response for all sCD's.

25 **Figure 9.** Shows the patterns of levels of sCDs during various infectious disease states as compared with a group of 'normal' non-diseased individuals.

Key: Lightly shaded box-sCD levels unchanged
Darkly shaded box-sCD levels increased

Shaded box with diagonal line-sCD levels decreased.

- 5 **Figure 10.** Shows the patterns of levels of sCDs during various inflammatory/autoimmune diseases as compared with a group of 'normal' non-diseased individuals.
- Key:** Lightly shaded box-sCD levels unchanged
Darkly shaded box-sCD levels increased
Shaded box with diagonal line-sCD levels
- 10 **Figure 11.** Shows the patterns of levels of sCDs during various 'other diseases' as compared with a group of 'normal' non-diseased individuals.
- Key:** Lightly shaded box-sCD levels unchanged
Darkly shaded box-sCD levels increased
Shaded box with diagonal line-sCD levels
- 15 **Figure 12.** Shows the patterns of levels of sCDs during various neoplastic disease states as compared with a group of 'normal' non-diseased individuals.
- Key:** Lightly shaded box-sCD levels unchanged
Darkly shaded box-sCD levels increased
Shaded box with diagonal line-sCD levels
- 20 **Figure 13.** Shows the patterns of levels of sCDs during various cardiovascular diseases as compared with a group of 'normal' non-diseased individuals.
- Key:** Lightly shaded box-sCD levels unchanged
Darkly shaded box-sCD levels increased
Shaded box with diagonal line-sCD levels
- 25 **Figure 14.** Shows the patterns of levels of sCDs during various metabolic and haematological diseases as compared with a group of 'normal' non-diseased individuals.
- 30

Key: Lightly shaded box-sCD levels unchanged
 Darkly shaded box-sCD levels increased
 Shaded box with diagonal line-sCD levels

5 **Figure 15.** Shows the patterns of levels of sCDs during various haematological malignancies as compared with a group of 'normal' non-diseased individuals.

Key: Lightly shaded box-sCD levels unchanged
 Darkly shaded box-sCD levels increased
 Shaded box with diagonal line-sCD levels

10

Detailed description of the Invention

General techniques

Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same
 15 meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art (e.g., in cell culture, molecular genetics, nucleic acid chemistry, hybridisation techniques and biochemistry). Standard techniques are used for molecular, genetic and biochemical methods (see generally, Sambrook *et al.*, Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2d ed. (1989) Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. and
 20 Ausubel *et al.*, Short Protocols in Molecular Biology (1999) 4th Ed, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. which are incorporated herein by reference) and chemical methods. In addition Harlow & Lane., A Laboratory Manual Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y, is referred to for standard Immunological Techniques.

25 Generation of a fingerprint of one or more disease states

In a first aspect, the present invention provides a secretory CD (sCD) fingerprint of one or more disease states.

Clinical signs and symptoms and various biochemical indicators of disease are used to
 30 identify individuals with one or more defined disease states. sCD levels are then measured for a number of sCDs present in one or more body fluid samples from each individual, preferably in a number of individuals using methods known to those skilled

in the art and described herein, in order to generate a reference disease state or reference composite disease state fingerprint for those one or more given disease states.

5 (A) Diagnosis of disease states

i. Diagnostic Indicators Used.

Appendicitis

- 10 – Request for Amylase at admission A&E/MAU Subsequent
 Histopathological Diagnosis

Bence Jones Proteinuria

- 15 – Multiple myeloma in which the malignant plasma cells excrete only
 light chains of one type (either 2 or 3); lytic bone lesions occur in
 about 60% of the cases, and light chains (Bence Jones protein) can be
 detected in the urine
- Positive finding

Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia

- 20 – Histopathological Diagnosis

Colorectal Carcinoma

- Histopathological Diagnosis

25 Chronic Renal Failure

- Prolonged elevation of serum creatinine.

Crohn's Disease

- 30 – Histopathological diagnosis

Diabetic Nephropathy

- Identified by abnormal urine Albumin/Creatinine ratio from subjects

attending diabetic clinic.

Cardiac Pathology

- MI (as diagnosed by increased CK, symptoms and ECG changes).

5

Infection

CRP (C reactive protein) > 250 g/l (e.g. *Staphylococcus aureus* infections).

10

Liver Damage

- Clinical Details Alcoholic Liver Disease/Poisoning. Abnormal liver function tests.

15

Lymphoma

- Histopathological Diagnosis

Macrocytic Anaemia

- Diagnosed by haematological parameters. Hb <10 g/dL; MCV > 100 fL

20

Oligoclonal Banding

- small discrete bands in the gamma globulin region of the spinal fluid electrophoresis, indicating local central nervous system production of IgG; bands are frequently seen in patients with multiple sclerosis but can also be found in other diseases of the central nervous system including syphilis, sarcoidosis, and chronic infection or inflammation.

25

30 VQ (T pulmonary angiogram)

Pulmonary Embolism/Deep Vein Thrombosis

- ultrasound VQ or CT pulmonary angiogram scan (ventilation perfusion mismatch)

Prostate Carcinoma

- 5 - Histopathological diagnosis and elevated PSA.

In general, a combination of the patient's history, medical examination, general health and indicators provided from biochemical, histochemical, radiochemical and other types of tests and disease and/or clinical signs of disease will be used in the diagnosis of disease. For the avoidance of doubt, the term 'clinical signs and symptoms of disease' means the same as 'clinical details' of disease.

(B) Samples of body fluids from disease states

For each sCD the following information is generally obtained a) the dynamic range of the assay b) the range of concentrations expected in health c) the range of concentrations expected in disease. From this information an approximate dilution factor for each assay may be obtained, allowing maximum use of subject samples. One skilled will appreciate thought that in some circumstances body fluid samples may not be diluted for testing.

20

Suitable body fluids for measuring sCD levels as herein defined include whole blood, serum, urine, tissue fluid, cerebrospinal fluid, lymphatic fluid, aspirate, bone marrow aspirate, mucus or other tissue or body fluid. One skilled in the art will appreciate that this list is not intended to be exhaustive. Preferably sCD levels are measured in serum which is prepared from whole blood using methods familiar to those skilled in the art. At least 1.5ml of sample is required for testing of all the sCDs. In addition, the present inventors have shown that haemolysis and lipaemia can interfere with some immunoassays used for detecting sCDs and therefore samples are used which exhibit minimal haemolysis and lipaemia.

30

Body fluid samples may be diluted in order to measure the sCD levels and the dilution factor for each sCD should be the same for the generation of the fingerprints for all

disease states tested. One skilled in the art will appreciate that the dilution factor may be adjusted in order to focus on either high or low concentrations of sCDs. Advantageously, the dilution factor will be adjusted to focus on high concentrations of sCDs.

5

(C) Methods of measuring sCD levels.

Suitable methods for measuring levels of sCDs in body fluids include flow cytometry, in particular multiplexed particle flow cytometry, immunoassay and microarray technologies utilising antibody or ligand interactions. Advantageously, sCDs levels are measured using multiplexed particle flow cytometry and/or chip based monoclonal antibody technology. These methods will be familiar to those skilled in the art.

10

(i) Immunoassays

Immunoassays such as immunoblotting (detecting membrane-bound and soluble proteins), and enzyme linked immunoassays (ELISA) provide a sensitive and specific means of detecting target substances.

15

Although the various types of immunoassays are performed differently, they have one thing in common-they all involve antibodies. Used in an appropriate immunoassay system, specificity leads to sensitivity. As herein defined the term 'antibodies' includes antibody fragments, engineered immunoglobulin folds or scaffolds which have a binding affinity for soluble CD molecules.

20

One skilled in the art will appreciate that the 'immunoassay technique' may be adapted to use other molecules which selectively bind sCDs. Those skilled in the art will be aware of such molecules.

25

In a direct immunoassay, the antibody used as the primary reagent is advantageously given a fluorescent, enzymatic, or radio-active detection means. In indirect immunoassays, the secondary antibody-usually polyclonal antisera produced by a goat or a rabbit against human immunoglobulins-carries the detection means. When a

30

secondary antibody is used, the initial immune reaction between the primary antibody and the target antigen is amplified, producing a more readily detectable signal.

Western blots of electrophoretically separated proteins (immunoblots), on the other
 5 hand, are generally probed with antibodies labeled with an enzyme or a radioisotope, such as ^{125}I . Chromogenic or chemiluminescent substrates can also be used. For example, enzymes such as HRP and AP catalyze chromagenic reactions, in which a colourless substrate is converted into a coloured compound, and also chemiluminescent reactions where light is emitted.

10

Chromogenic substrate kits are commercially available and include but are not limited to for example alkaline phosphatase, horseradish peroxidase, and TMB peroxidase (TMB is tetramethylbenzidine, the substrate in this case). Boehringer Mannheim also has several enzyme substrates for immunoassays available. They include but are not
 15 limited to for example ABTS (2,2'-azino-di-3-ethylbenzthiazoline sulfonate) and TMB (tetramethylbenzidine), which are used with HRP; and 4-nitrophenyl phosphate and 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl phosphate (BCIP) for immunoassays in which an alkaline phosphatase-conjugated antibody is used.

20 Chemiluminescent substrates are available from companies such as Pierce, which for example, produces the SuperSignal CL-HRP Substrate, an enhanced chemiluminescent substrate for horseradish peroxidase. This system detects specific proteins on immunoblots with a sensitivity that rivals radioactivity (reportedly to picogram levels). When the chemiluminescent substrate is applied to membrane-bound proteins on an
 25 immunoblot, an instantaneous but long-lasting flash of light is produced.

Commercially available immunoassay kits for measuring sCD levels include those from Diaclone 1, Bd A. Fleming BP 1985 F-25020 Besancon Cedex-France which provides kits for the measurement of a number of CD molecules including CD 14,
 30 CD21, CD25, CD31, CD44, CD50, CD54, CD62E, CD62L, CD86, CD95, CD102, CD106, CD116, CD117, CD124, CD126, CD130, CD138, CD141, CD40L.

Medsystems diagnostics GmbH, Rennweg 95b, A-1030 Vienna Austria, also provides kits which measure sCD levels.

(ii) Flow cytometry

- 5 Techniques for carrying out flow cytometry are familiar to those skilled in the art and are described in Flow Cytometry: A Practical Approach. Edited by MG Ormerod. IRL Press, Oxford. 1994. ISBN 0-19 963461-0. Practical Flow Cytometry. 3rd Edition. Howard M Shapiro. Alan R Liss, Inc. ISBN 0-471-30376-3. Flow Cytometry. First Principles. Alice Longobardi Givan. Wiley-Liss, New York, 1992. ISBN 0-471-56095-2. Handbook of Flow Cytometry Methods. Edited by J Paul Robinson. Wiley-Liss, New York, 1993. ISBN 0-471-59634-5.

(iii) Multiplexed particle flow cytometry assay

- 15 Methods for simultaneously assaying different proteins in individual samples are commercially available. Some of those commercially available are detailed below:

The versatile laboratory multianalyte profiling (LabMAP™) system developed by Luminex Corp. of Austin, Texas, can be used for virtually any bioassay that is based on the specific binding of one molecule to another, for example a monoclonal antibody
20 raised against a sCD and a CD molecule.

LabMAP assays for a sCD molecule can be based on the immunological detection, and/or may follow the gain or loss of fluorescence (e.g., when a mAb raised against a sCD binds to a sCD target). LabMAP assays employ three different fluorochromes:
25 two to create color-coded microspheres, and the third for quantifying the reaction. Polystyrene microspheres are internally dyed with precise ratios of two spectrally distinct fluorochromes. This ratio confers a unique identifying "signature" or "spectral address" to each microsphere set.

- 30 Bioassays are conducted on the surfaces of the microspheres. Each capture probe (e.g., sCD-specific antibody or other affirmative detection reagent) is immobilized onto a color-coded set of microspheres using any of a variety of different surface

chemistries. Luminex offers microspheres bearing Lumavidin™ (an avidin derivative), for immobilizing biotinylated molecules, or carboxyl groups, for covalently coupling protein. The binding of analyte to an immobilized probe is detected via a detection reagent labeled with the third fluorochrome. Luminex currently offers 100 different
5 microsphere sets, each of which can be used for the simultaneous measurement of a different analyte. Thus, in theory, up to 100 different species can be simultaneously measured in a single tube or microplate well.

The Luminex microsphere product line is designed specifically to work with the
10 instruments available from Luminex or their partners. The Luminex 100™ instrument uses microfluidics to align the microspheres in single file and employs two lasers, one for the detection of the fluorescent microsphere itself, and the other for the reporter reagent. The colour signals are captured by an optics system and translated into binding data via digital signal processing.

15 Instrumentation, reagents, and custom services for LabMAP technology users are also available from companies other than Luminex. For example, Bio-Rad Laboratories of Hercules, Calif., introduced the Bio-Plex™ Protein Array System. This system combines a fluorescent reader with the software, protocols, and supplies
20 needed for performing LabMAP-based assays in a 96-well microplate format. The primary benefits of the Bio-Plex Protein Array System, other than up to a 100-fold increase in data, include significantly reduced sample requirements.

The Cytometric Bead Array (CBA) system from BD Biosciences of San Diego is
25 flexible in that it accommodates multiple sizes and fluorescent intensities of particles. The system includes everything the researcher needs to implement this technology, including a cytometer setup kit with the requisite software, reagents and standards. The company's CBA assay kits employ their proprietary bead sets, which are internally dyed with varying intensities of a proprietary fluorophore. These sets are
30 distinguished via one fluorescence parameter and two size discriminators. However, the system is also capable of handling assays based on the use of other types of spectrally distinct microsphere sets. The CBA analysis software is an "add-in" for

Microsoft Excel®, and is compatible with contemporary data acquisition software such as CellQuest™. Researchers can employ a variety of preset configurations for generating standard dilution series and calibration curves, and data reports can be generated at each step in the process.

5

(iv) “Antibody Chip” array technology.

The array format has revolutionised biomedical experimentation and diagnostics, enabling ordered high-throughput analysis. During the past decade, classic solid phase
10 substrates, such as microtitre plates, membrane filters and microscopic slides, have been turned into high-density, chip-like structures. The concept of the array library was central to this development which now extends from DNA to protein. Similar to the gene chip arrays measuring RNA levels on a genome wide scale, recombinantly expressed genes can be robotically arrayed to produce protein chip arrays that can be
15 used for the simultaneous assessment of protein levels on a proteome wide scale. Additionally, protein specific antibodies can be arrayed to produce “antibody chip arrays” (Cahill D., 2001, *J. Imm. Meth.* **250**, 81-91). The availability of such antibody chip arrays can be used to simultaneously analyse numerous interactions within a single sample. The “antibody chip” can be used to demonstrate antibody-protein
20 interactions by incubating the chip with target proteins which have been labelled with a traceable marker (ProteinChip, CIPHERGEN Biosystems, Fremont, CA, USA; BIAcore chips, Biacore, Uppsala, Sweden) or by incubating the chip with protein molecules or fragments thereof and detecting association between antibody and protein molecule or fragment thereof using ELISA type assays (Caliper Technologies, Mountain View,
25 CA, USA; Orchid Biocomputer Inc., Princeton, NJ, USA). In the context of the present invention, using antibody chip array technology is especially suitable as sCD molecules that can be found as complete or truncated/incomplete peptides will be recognised by a specific antibody. Chips may equally well be assayed with affirmative detection technologies.

30

Techniques for preparing antibody arrays are described below:

The antibodies may be covalently linked to a suitable membrane such as an Immobilon P membrane (PVDF; Millipore Corporation) Subsequent blocking with an excess of a protein solution such as a skim milk preparation is preferred. A blocking agent is designed to eliminate non-specific binding on the binding surface

5 Other suitable blocking agents are Irish moss extract or other source of carrageenan or gelatin. The antibodies are also adsorbed to a nitrocellulose film on a glass microscope slide (Schleicher and Schuell, NH, USA) and the unbound nitrocellulose is then blocked with skim milk. Antibodies are also adsorbed to Nylon membranes. To increase the accessibility of bound anti- CD antibodies to antigens on cells, the solid

10 support used for the array is initially coated with a recombinant, truncated form of Protein G from *Streptococcus* which retains its affinity for the Fc portion of IgG lacks albumin and Fab binding sites, and membrane-binding regions (Goward et al., 1990). Antibodies are applied to this coat of Protein G and bind via their domains leaving the Fab domains free to interact with cells. The Fab domains are also further

15 from the solid support providing greater accessibility of CD antigens on cell membranes to antibodies.

The array of antibodies is also constructed on a membrane or a coverslip. In this case, the antibodies are covalently linked to the membrane as duplicate spots in a two

20 dimensional matrix. The spots are arranged in a matrix such as but not limited to a 15x 15 matrix.

The antibodies are advantageously monoclonal and are specific for the cluster of differentiation (cluster designation) antigens (CD antigens). Details of CD antigens

25 are available at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/prov/cd/index_molecule.htm. The spots are of microscopic size and are produced by the application of a drop (- 10 nanolitres) of antibody solution (e.g. 10⁶ tg protein/ml) on designated portions of a membrane or glass surface such as a coverslip, first washed with a non-specific protein absorbent such as 30% w/v skim milk (Dutch Jug, Bonlac Foods Ltd, Melbourne, Australia) and

30 then rinsed. Other protein solutions and other brands of skim milk may also be employed. The antibodies may be covalently coupled to the solid support such as through amino groups of lysine residues, the carboxylate groups of aspartate or

glutamic acid residues or the sulphydryl groups of cysteine residues. The array of antibodies selectively binds cells from body fluids which express the respective antigens or may bind free antigens. A positive and/or negative control is included such as an antibody for surface molecules or soluble molecules known to be present in the sample. An example of one form of the assay device is shown in Fig. 3. The solid support is conveniently of similar size and shape to a microscope slide and may be constructed of glass or other polymeric material.

A wall around the microscope slide may be separately added or moulded with the slide and this facilitates retention of fluid material. The present invention extends to any other device capable of fulfilling the method of the present invention.

In the case of nitrocellulose based antibody arrays are preferably constructed using a Biodot Aspirate and Dispense System (Cartesian Technologies) where 5 nL dots are applied to a nitrocellulose film. on glass microscope slides (Schleicher and Schuell, Cat. No. 10484182). Purified monoclonal antibodies (Beckman Coulter, Becton Dickinson or Biosource International) are used at concentrations recommended for flow cytometric analysis and are applied in the same buffers as supplied by the manufacturers. The nitrocellulose is then blocked by incubation with 5 % w/v skim milk (Dutch Jug) for 1.5 h at 37°C. These blocking conditions are chosen to minimize background binding.

The stability of the arrays is further enhanced by adding protein stabilizing agents to the antibodies (e.g. polyethylene glycol or stabilizer products commercially available from Surmodics, MN, USA).

The following description provides a preferred method for preparing the antibody arrays: The panel of antibodies is generally used to construct antibody arrays with the Cartesian Technologies PixSys™ 3200 Aspirate and Dispense System. The antibodies are chosen for use in a particular diagnosis or detection protocol. Each antibody is generally applied in the volume of from about 1 to about 10 nanoliters in a dot format at approximately from 0.5 to 1.5 min intervals to create an appropriate array

on a nitrocellulose film generally laid on a solid support such as but not limited to a microscope slide. After dotting, the supports are assessed on a light box and the corners of the arrays marked gently using, for example, a lead pencil. The antibody arrays are then immersed in a blocking agent such as but not limited to skim milk, Irish moss extract or other source of carrageenan or gelatin. From about 2 % to about 15 %, w/v skim milk powder in PBS at 4°C overnight or at 37°C for from about 60-120 minutes is particularly useful. After application of the blocking agent, the solid supports are washed gently with purified water and allowed to dry at room temperature for a period of time from about 60-120 minutes.

10

The solid supports are then stored in an airtight bag at 4°C in the dark

(D) A sCD fingerprint for one or more disease states according to the present invention

Advantageously, levels of sCDs are measured in diseased individuals and absolute values may be divided by the upper limit of normal (ULN) obtained from healthy individuals. The data is collated and the resultant pattern of values obtained for each sCD for one or more given disease states, from one or more individuals forms the basis of a sCD fingerprint of one or more given disease states.

20 The statistical significance of the increases or decreases in sCD levels found in various disease states can be assessed using a number of methods.

The sCD fingerprint can advantageously be simplified by removing those sCDs whose levels do not generally change significantly during one or more given disease states. Examples of such sCDs include but are not limited to CD21, CD102, CD117, CD 126, CD130, CD 26, CD44v5, CDv6, CD62P. For example see Figure 2.

To simplify the fingerprint further, instead of showing the data from each individual for any given sCD during a disease, a modal value for each sCD calculated from the group of individuals may be plotted. The rational of this is demonstrated in Figures 3, 5, 6, 7, 8. This provides an easily readable and simple 'fingerprint' of a disease.

30

One skilled in the art will appreciate that there are many methods suitable for the statistical analysis of the sCD level data measured as herein described. These include but are not limited to cluster analysis and other statistical methods for the detection of patterns.

5

Statistical analysis

Methods for the statistical analysis of data are known to those skilled in the art. An example of a suitable protocol for the analysis of data is outlined below:

- 10 The statistical analysis procedures described here relate to immunoprecipitation assays of soluble CD molecules in samples arrayed in 96-well microtitre trays. Statistical analysis of the proposed antibody-chip arrays could essentially follow the same procedures, although modifications would inevitably need to be made to account for experimental design and data quality issues specific to that technology.

15

- In the present analysis, each tray was designed to measure the concentration of a specific soluble CD molecule in a number of samples. Trays were prepared for each of 29 soluble CD molecules, for each of three sets of 37 patients. In all, the three sets of patients represented 17 disparate disease groups, including one group of healthy
20 individuals. The 96 wells on each tray contained: sera from each of the 37 patients of one set (duplicated); a standard control preparation containing the target antigen at each of 7 different concentrations (duplicated); pooled sera from 'normal' control patients (replicated 3 times); and the same pooled sera spiked with the target antigen (replicated 3 times).

25

Each tray was washed with a solution containing fluorescently labelled monoclonal antibody specific to its designated target antigen, and exposed to light. For each well, a measurement of light absorption was recorded.

30 ***Data preparation***

The recorded light absorptions were mathematically transformed, as follows.

- Ⓢ Absorptions were converted to antigen concentrations, via a calibration curve based on the absorptions recorded for the antigen standards in the same tray. Absorptions of dubious quality were flagged *missing*, and omitted from subsequent analysis.
- 5 Ⓢ Concentrations exceeding that of the most concentrated antigen standard of the tray were flagged as *high*. Concentrations corresponding to absorptions at the limit of instrumentation were similarly flagged.
- Ⓢ Each flagged concentration was replaced by the concentration of its duplicate in the tray, provided the duplicate concentration was not also flagged.
- 10 Ⓢ The average of each concentration with its duplicate was computed. We refer to these as *mean concentrations*.
- Ⓢ For each CD, the 10th and 90th centiles of the distribution of mean concentrations in normal individuals was computed. We refer to these as CD_{10} and CD_{90} . Subtracting CD_{10} from CD_{90} gives a range, which we denote CD_{range} . *Concentration categories*
- 15 were defined for each CD as follows:

Category	from	to
-1	0	CD_{10}
0	CD_{10}	CD_{90}
1	CD_{90}	$CD_{90} + CD_{range}$
2	$CD_{90} + CD_{range}$	$CD_{90} + 2 \times CD_{range}$
3	$CD_{90} + 2 \times CD_{range}$	$CD_{90} + 3 \times CD_{range}$
4	$CD_{90} + 3 \times CD_{range}$	-

- Ⓢ To control for differences in the scale of reactivity of different CDs, to stabilise variability between duplicates across the range of concentrations, and to relate
- 20 concentrations to values obtained for normal individuals, each mean concentration was put into the appropriate concentration category of its CD. All concentrations flagged *high* were put into the highest category. We refer to these as *categorised concentrations*.

Data analyses

Cluster analysis

- 5 A cluster analysis was performed to identify clusters of CDs having similar patterns of reactivity across the patients, standards and controls. Likewise, a second cluster analysis was performed to identify clusters of patients with similar profiles of reactivity across the CDs. Cluster analyses were hierarchical and based on the categorised concentrations, described above, using a Euclidean distance metric and the
10 average linkage criterion for cluster merging.

The results from the cluster analyses were displayed in the form of a level plot, a part of which is given in **figure 16**. In this level plot, the rows correspond to CDs and the columns correspond to patients, standards and controls. Rows and columns are ordered
15 so that those in the same cluster are adjacent. Also, dendrograms were produced showing the hierarchy of clusters, separately for the clustering of CDs and for the clustering of patients, standards and controls. Each cell in the level plot is toned to indicate its categorised concentration, deep blue corresponding to Category -1 (below normal), and deep red corresponding to Category 4 (high). Missing concentrations are
20 denoted by an 'X'.

Uses of one or more 'fingerprints of disease' according to the present invention

In a further aspect, the present invention provides a method for predicting the presence
25 of one or more disease states in an individual comprising the step of analysing the sCD fingerprint in that individual.

In a further aspect still, the present invention provides a method for detecting the presence of one or more disease states in an individual comprising the step of
30 analysing the pattern/s of secretory CD levels of more than one secretory CD which is present in that individual.

In a further aspect still, the present invention provides a method for detecting the extent of one or more disease states in an individual comprising the step of comparing one or more sCD fingerprint/s generated from that individual with one or more reference sCD fingerprint/s.

5

In yet a further aspect, the present invention provides a method for assessing the progression of a disease state in an individual comprising the step of comparing the sCD fingerprint of an individual at two or more periods during the occurrence of the disease.

10

In a further aspect still, the present invention provides a method for assessing the effect of one or more agent/s on one or more disease states in an individual comprising the step of comparing a sCD fingerprint of an individual at two or more time periods.

15 In a further aspect, the data generated by the present invention is used to compile a reference database, comprising pathological and/or normal sCD fingerprints, against which the expression sCD pattern of any individual will be compared.

20 In a further aspect still, the present invention provides the use of a sCD fingerprint to assess the effect of one or more agents in an individual.

An embodiment of the present invention is its use as a tool for assessing the affect different diet and exercise regimes may have on human or other mammals.

25 Additionally, the present invention may be used to construct sub-categories of sCD fingerprint profiles, suitable for common therapeutic treatment.

The invention will now be described by the following examples which are in no way limiting of the invention.

30

Example 1. Figure 1. Disease Groups. Multiples of ULN All sCD's included

Two values obtained (CD40L and CD30) for the individual, classified as normal, with a suspected drug overdose were omitted from the calculation of the upper limit of normal. The dilution factor for each sCD was fixed throughout the study. The results obtained are those of the diluted sample and have not been multiplied by the dilution factor. The absolute value of each data point was divided by the upper limit of normal (ULN) as defined above. Where the absolute value was greater than the dynamic range of the assay the result [9999] was recorded.

The limits indicated by each point are:

- Green $\leq 1 \times \text{ULN}$
- 10 • Blue $1 - 2 \times \text{ULN}$
- Red $> 2 \times \text{ULN}$
- A white block indicates no data available.

Example 2. Figure 2 Remove all sCD's that appear not to discriminate from the normals (sCD's 21; 102; 117; 126; 130; 26; 44v5; 44v6; 62P).

To simplify the diagram the above sCD plots were removed.

The data suggests (Figure 1.) that the concentration of some of these sCD may actually be lowered in disease. As we initially worked on the premise that there would be over-expression of these molecules in disease, samples have been diluted optimally to focus on high, rather than low concentrations.

Example 3. Figure 3. Disease Groups. Mode of Response for Remaining 20 sCD's

To simplify the data further the modal response for each disease group has been plotted. As the lymphoma and "oligoclonal-banding positive" group contain only a single subject, they have been omitted. Where there is no clear mode, both responses have been shown.

Example 4. Figure 4. Disease Groups. Mode of Response for remaining sCD's

Data has been ranked in order of increased expression.

Example 5. Figure 5. Disease Groups. Mode of Response for remaining sCD's

As for Figure 4, except responses have been classified as "normal" and "abnormal".
Values >1 ULN have been classified as abnormal.

5

Both Figures 4 and 5 suggest that each disease state exhibit a unique pattern of elevated sCD expression.

Example 6. Figure 6. Disease Groups. Mode of Response for all sCD's

10

As for Figure 3 (except all sCD's are included).

The limits indicated by each point are:

- Green $\leq 1 \times \text{MoM}$
- Blue $1 - 2 \times \text{MoM}$
- 15 • Red $> 2 \times \text{MoM}$
- A white block indicates no data available.

Example 7. Figure 7. Disease Groups. Mode of Response for all sCD's

As for Figure 4.

Example 8. Figure 8. Disease Groups. Mode of Response for all sCD's

20

As for Figure 5. (except that values > 2 MoM have been classified as abnormal).

Comparison of figures 5 and 8 illustrate the importance of determining the cut-off threshold values in order to obtain a defined pattern.

25

All publications mentioned in the above specification are herein incorporated by reference. Various modifications and variations of the described methods and system of the present invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the present invention. Although the present invention has

been described in connection with specific preferred embodiments, it should be understood that the invention as claimed should not be unduly limited to such specific embodiments. Indeed, various modifications of the described modes for carrying out the invention which are obvious to those skilled in biochemistry, molecular biology
5 and biotechnology or related fields are intended to be within the scope of the following claims.

CLAIMS

1. A secretory CD (sCD) fingerprint of one or more disease states.
- 5 2. A method of generating a secretory CD (sCD) fingerprint of one or more disease state/s comprising the step of measuring the levels of more than one secretory CDs from one or more individuals and collating the data.
- 10 3. A sCD fingerprint according to claim 1 or a method according to claim 2 wherein the disease state is any one or more selected from the group consisting of: infectious, neoplastic, autoimmune, metabolic, degenerative, psychological, psychiatric, iatrogenic, inflammatory, drug or toxin related, vascular, traumatic and endocrine diseases.
- 15 4. A sCD fingerprint or a method according any preceding claim wherein the disease state is any one or more selected from the group consisting of the following: infection, Bence Jones Proteinuria, Chronic Myeloid Leukemia, Colorectal cancer, chronic renal failure, Crohn's Disease, Diabetic Nephropathy, Cardiac pathology, Infection, Liver damage, Lymphoma, macrocytic anaemia, Prostate Cancer, Oligoclonal Banding and Pulmonary Embolism/Deep Vein Thrombosis and appendicitis.
- 20 5. A sCD fingerprint according to claim 1 or claim 3 or claim 4 or a method according to claim 2, claim 3 or claim 4 wherein the sCDs referred to comprise two or more selected from the group consisting: CD14, CD25, CD31, CD44, CD50, CD54, CD62E, CD62L, CD86, CD95, CD106, CD116, CD124, CD138, CD141, CD40L, CD8, CD23, CD30, CD40 and their homologues present in other mammalian or non-mammalian species.
- 25 6. A method according to any of claims 2 to 5 wherein the sCD levels are measured in samples of one or more body fluids from an individual.
- 30

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the body fluid is serum.
8. A method according to any of claims 2 to 7 wherein sCD levels are measured using one or more methods selected from the group consisting of:
5 immunoassay and flow cytometry.
9. A method according to claim 8 wherein sCD levels are measured using multiplexed particle flow cytometry and/or chip based monoclonal antibody technologies.
10. A method for predicting the presence of one or more disease states in an individual comprising the step of comparing one or more sCD fingerprint/s generated from that individual with one or more reference sCD fingerprint/s.
11. A method for detecting the presence of one or more disease states in an individual comprising the step of comparing one or more sCD fingerprint/s generated from that individual with one or more reference sCD fingerprint/s.
12. A method for detecting the extent of one or more disease states in an individual comprising the step of comparing one or more sCD fingerprint/s generated from that individual with one or more reference sCD fingerprint/s.
13. A method for assessing the progression of a disease state in an individual comprising the step of comparing the sCD fingerprint of an individual at two or more periods during the life-span of the disease.
14. A method for assessing the effect of one or more agent/s on one or more disease states in an individual comprising the step of comparing a sCD fingerprint of an individual at two or more different time periods.
15. The use of a sCD fingerprint to assess the effect of one or more agent/s on an individual.

16. A method for sub-categorising a sCD fingerprint profile comprising the steps of identifying within one disease category one or more group/s of sCDs wherein each group of sCDs exhibits common characteristics distinguishing it from any other group within that disease category.
17. A sCD database comprising pathological and/or normal sCD fingerprint patterns.

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to the use of cluster of differentiation (CD) molecules in detecting the presence and progression of one or more disease states in an individual. In particular it relates to the use of profiles of secretory CD (sCD) molecules in
5 detecting and assessing the progression of one or more disease states in an individual. Further uses of sCD profiles according to the present invention are also described.

Figure 1.

Figure

[illegible]

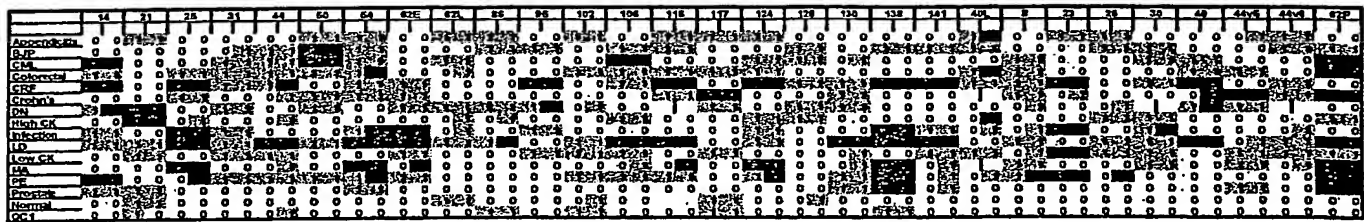
Figure 3.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Figure 6.



[illegible]

[illegible]

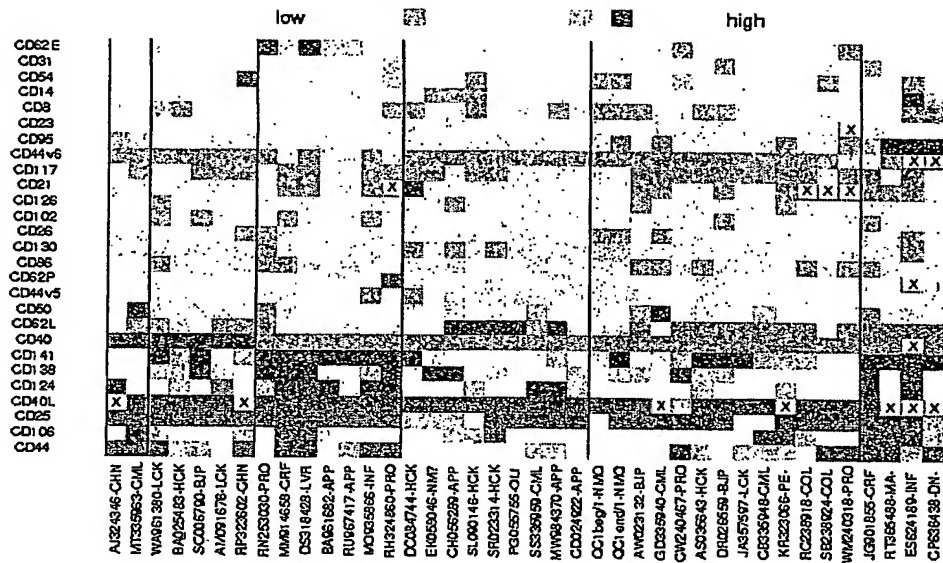


Figure 16

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